

Subsidy on food

†150. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that subsidy on food for the financial year 1999-2000 is estimated to the tune of rupees 10,000 crore which was rupees 5,100 crore during the year 1994-95;

(b) if not, the facts in this regard and whether it is also a fact that support prices for procurement of wheat and paddy from farmers have also been increased considerably during the said years; and

(c) if so, the support prices for procurement of wheat and paddy during the years 1994-95 and 1999-2000?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Provision for food subsidy during 1999-2000 was Rs. 9,200/- crores. Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for procurement of wheat and paddy during 1994-95 and 1999-2000 were as follows:—

Marketing Year	Wheat	(Rs. per qtl.)		
		Paddy		
		Com.	Fine	S. Fine
1994-95	350	340	360	380
1999-2000	550	490	520*	

*Categorised as common and Grade 'A' only with effect from 1.12.1997.

Problems of surplus/shortage of foodgrains

151. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that certain States are facing the problems resulting from plenty of foodgrains like Andhra Pradesh and Punjab while other States like Orissa and Chhattisgarh are facing the problem of shortage of foodgrains and starvation case are taking place; and

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.